Wallace Aide Asks Shooting Payment

By Ivan G. Goldman
Washington Post Staff Writer

A 34-year-old Hyattsville housewife, one of the three persons wounded by gunfire with Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace in a Laurel shopping center May 15, has applied for a stipened from the Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Doris Thompson, of 5106 59th Ave., make her application July 15, stating her expenses thus far stemming from the injury at more than $1,300, a board spokesman said yesterday.

Maryland is one of seven states awarding compensation to innocent victims of crime. Mrs. Thompson, mother of a 9-year-old son, was shot in the lower portion of her right leg, the bullet fracturing the bone.

Walking on crutches to the witness stand, she testified yesterday in Upper Marlboro at the trial of Arthur Herman Bremer, 21, who is accused of shooting Gov. Wallace, Mrs. Thompson, secret service agent Nicholas Zarvos and Capt. E. C. Dothard, an Alabama state trooper.

Mrs. Thompson, a volunteer worker in Wallace's campaign for President, was standing in the crowd at the Laurel rally when a gunman started firing.

Martin I. Moylan, executive director of the three-member compensation board, said that the law allows as much as $45,000 in benefits to a single victim of a crime, but he noted that to be eligible for the limit, a victim "would have to have something very, very serious, something preventing the victim from ever working again, for instance."

Moylan said that although it is conceivable that Wallace and the other victims in the May 15 shooting might apply for benefits, he was not certain the others would be entitled to compensation under the Maryland law.

"There is a hardship requirement," he explained. "If you're eligible, say, for sick pay, or disability payments from some other source, this is deducted from our award."

Moylan said that since the compensation law has been in effect—July 1, 1968—275 persons have received a total of more than $2 million under its provision.

He said the board staff would investigate Mrs. Thompson's application then make a recommendation to the board, which would make the final decision subject to the approval of Maryland Attorney General Francis Burch.

"We should have this settled in about a month," Moylan said.

By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post

Dora Thompson, shot in leg in Laurel incident, appears in Upper Marlboro to testify at Bremer trial.